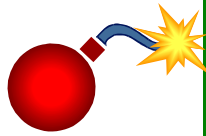




JRTC & Fort Polk

Explosive Safety Gram

8 Mar 05



MISFIRE OF 120MM MORTAR AMMUNITION

- Recently, two incidents which occurred during removal of misfired 120MM cartridges from the 120MM mortar. One incident resulted in serious injuries to two soldiers, while the second incident resulted in the death of three soldiers and injury to a fourth. The evidence indicated the safety mechanism of the mortar was not properly locked in the fire position. Testing confirms that firing ammunition cartridges at change 3 with a safety mechanism not properly locked in the fire position will, result in a misfire after seven to nine rounds.
- Without the safety mechanism properly locked, each cartridge fired will push the firing pin lower until firing pin height is not sufficient to initiate the cartridge primer.
- The TM requires units to check that firing selector is positively locked in the "F" (FIRE) position. It also requires units to check safety mechanism positively locks under spring tension into fire and safe detents. If the safing mechanism is not confirmed as locked in the safe switch position detent, it is not safed.
- All units drawing 120MM mortar ammunition are to be advised of the potential for injury if a misfire is not properly handled and all units will be reminded that the misfire procedures must be strictly followed.
- Further guidance can be obtained from Ammunition Information Notice (AIN) 25-05 which was transmitted 252002ZFEB05.